

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/019,287**
Amendment filed October 24, 2006
Reply to OA dated August 1, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 6-11, 19-30, and 34-88 are pending in this application. An amendment is proposed canceling claims 9, 27, 40, 52, 60, 72 and 82 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amending claims 6, 19, 34, 44, 64, 76, 86 and 87. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 6-8, 10, 11, 19-26, 28-30, 34-39, 41-51, 53-59, 61-71, 73-81 and 83-88 will be pending.

The Applicants respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Support for the amendments is discussed below. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **August 1, 2006**.

The rejection of claims 6-8, 10, 11, 19-26, 28-30, 34-39, 41-51, 53-59, 61-71, 73-81 and 83-88 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, has been maintained with a reason of record on 3/01/06. (Office action paragraph no. 1)

Claims 9, 27, 40, 52, 60, 72 and 82 are objected to. (Office action page 2)

Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims. The claims are rejected over the breadth of the phrase “sulfur-free and phosphorus free catalyst.” The Examiner indicates that claims 9, 27, 40, 52, 60, 72 and 82, which more narrowly recite the catalyst, would be allowable.

The present amendment amends the rejected claims to recite the limitation of claims 9, 27, 40, 52, 60, 72, and 82, that the “sulfur-free and phosphorus-free catalyst” is “selected from the group

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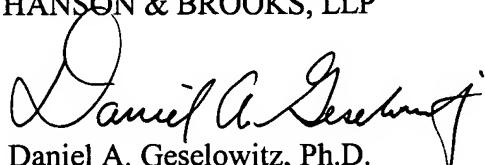
consisting of tetra(C₃-C₈ alkyl) titanate, titanium oxide, titanium hydroxide, sodium alkoxide of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, sodium hydroxide, C₃-C₁₂ fatty acid tin salt, tin oxide, tin hydroxide, zinc oxide, zinc hydroxide, lead oxide, lead hydroxide, aluminum oxide and aluminum hydroxide.” Claims 9, 27, 40, 52, 60, 72, and 82 have accordingly been canceled.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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